Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—No, Sir, I think I have a right to ask this question in view of the answer given to part (c) of my question. Since we are not sure that we would get a net gain of a lakh and odd, why not we lease it to Mr. King who is willing to take it up on lease for Rs. 12,000 a year?

President.—It remains to be seen whether we really would get that amount.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—So we are on experimental grant.

President.—Not that. There is a large quantity of stock there and it has to be transported. There are also standing trees to be cut and removed. So there is work for two or three years more. We must trust somebody. So we thought of working it as a Government concern.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Not with those who have abused us outright.

President.—If they abused our trust we should give them up.

271. Mr. A. B. Salem.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the closing of the Tramway was urged on them by the Special Finance Committee and the Legislative Council ;

(b) whether they will be pleased to place on the Table of the House the latest Diwan's order or scheme for continuing the Tramway ;

(c) whether the present Engineer of the Tramway has applied for a lease of the Tramway ;

(d) if so, will they be pleased to give the terms offered by him and place on the Table the communication from him to the Government in the matter of the lease ;

(e) whether the Tramway was inspected, by any one for the purpose of considering the possibilities of their taking it on lease ;

(f) if any one has so inspected, will the Government be pleased to state their names and connections with Cochin Forest business ?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.— (a) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative, to the second in the negative.

(b) Copies of the Diwan's Proceedings 11/D/1104 dated 16th August 1928 and of the scheme are placed on the Council Table.

(c) and (d). Vide answer to question No. 270 (a) and (b).

(e) Yes.

(f) Mr. Ranga Mannar of Messrs. Namberumal Chetty & Sons, Contractor.

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Mr. A. B. Salem.—May we know, Sir, what was the reason that induced the Diwan to pass the order referred to in part (b) of the question?

President.—Are not reasons given there?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—No, Sir; no reason is given.

President.—What is the question?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I ask what induced the Diwan to pass such an order that the Tramway is to work for 1104 only, in the face of the Special Finance Committee's and Council's proposal?

President.—The amount was provided for working the Tramway for 1104 in the 1104 budget. And then was it not discussed during the Budget Session? Was this order passed subsequent to the Budget Session?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The order is dated 16th August 1928.

President.—What was the tenor of the discussion during the budget?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We wanted the Tramway to continue.

President.—So it continues.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—But it was to be continued not as a Government concern. The Special Finance Committee recommended the closure of the Tramway and the last Council also was of the same opinion. But the Second Council was for the continuance of the same.

May I know what action was taken upon the request of the Tramway Engineer who was willing to take the Tramway line on lease for Rs. 12,000 a year and who was invariably working the Tramway at a loss for all the previous years?

President.—Nothing.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Did not the Government think it necessary to take action against him when the Government knew that he (Tramway Engineer) could work the Tramway at a profit if it is leased to him? There is his statement that he is willing to take the Tramway on lease for Rs. 12,000 a year. But the Tramway was working at a loss for all the previous years. Did not the Government think it necessary to take some action against him for continuously working the Tramway at a loss? The very fact that he could take the Tramway on lease is a confession on his part that the Tramway could have been worked at a profit, and that he did not work it at a profit. Was he purposely working the Tramway at a loss so that in the end he could take it on lease and thus make money out of it? Was this enquired into by Government?

President.—No enquiry was made.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Is the Government prepared to enquire into the conduct of the Tramway Engineer?

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President.—Was there any misconduct on the part of the Tramway Engineer, so as to require an enquiry?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—No.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Do you think it necessary to start an enquiry to know as to how the Tramway was worked at a loss during the previous years?

President.—It is a question of opinion.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—No, Sir; it is not a question of opinion. My point is whether the facts are sufficient for the Government to think that an enquiry is necessary or not. The answer expected is if it is not sufficient say it is not sufficient, and so we are not going to enquire. If you think it is sufficient, say it is sufficient and that an enquiry is necessary. I want only 'Yes' or 'No.' And as such it is not a question of opinion.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Sir, may I put in a word of explanation? I know I have not the right. Even then I request the leave of the President,..

President.—I think I cannot permit you.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—My question has not been answered, Sir. Is it sufficient or is it not sufficient?

President.—Not sufficient.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know, Sir, whether, as stated in your order of the 16th of August, by working 14,000 candies the Government would be able to get a lakh and odd? Of these 14,000 candies how many candies have been worked during this year up till now?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Do you mean the quantity brought down?

President.—He asked 'how many candies have been worked? Working means felling, removing to the Tram-line and then bringing down to the plains. Different actions are contemplated in the word 'worked'.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Five thousand candies have been transported and 2,000 are ready for transport.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—So, 7,000 candies have been worked. Is it out of the standing trees in the Parambikulam Forest that these have been worked out?

President.—You mean whether all these 7,000 candies have been worked out of standing timber?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Yes, Sir; because there are logs worked in the previous years and stocked and ready for transport.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—All these 7,000 candies have been worked this year. Out of that 5,000 have been transported and 2,000 are worked and are ready for transport.

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